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MAY 07 2001



PATENT
Docket No. 6137.P US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Charles W. FORD et al.) Group Art Unit: 1653
Serial No.: 09/600,392)
Filed: 14 July 2000)
Int'l Filing Date: 12 January 1999)

For: AN AUTOREGULATORY SYSTEM FOR VALIDATING MICROBIAL GENES AS
POSSIBLE ANTIMICROBIAL TARGETS USING A TETRACYCLINE-
CONTROLLABLE ELEMENT

#6/a
3ta
5-14-01

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to taking up the above-identified patent application for examination, please enter the following amendments.

In The Specification

Please replace the paragraph at page 1, lines 4-7, with the following rewritten paragraph. Per 37 C.F.R §1.121, this paragraph is also shown in Appendix A with notations to indicate the changes made.

Methods for identifying which microbial genes are targets for inhibition by antibiotics. Specifically a tetracycline-regulated system which provides autoregulatory, inducible gene expression in recombinant microbes, such as bacteria, and in animals infected with the microbes is described.